

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, applicant requests acknowledgment of the claim of priority and certified copy of the priority document filed with this application. A copy of the Claim for Priority and cover page of the certified copy is enclosed.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under § 102(e) on the basis of Bell et al. '650. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. According to Fig. 1 of Bell et al., only one VIPA_M(106) is shown as a virtual IP address and one MVS_M(101) is shown as a real IP address. On the other hand, in the present invention, a plurality of processor modules have a real IP address respectively, and define a processor-module or a plurality of processor-module virtual IP addresses. Accordingly, Bell et al. do not disclose (or suggest) "virtual IP address definition means for defining virtual IP addresses on a processor module or a plurality of processor modules".

Further, Bell et al. do not disclose or suggest "storage means" or "notification means for notifying a router of said virtual IP address of each processor module and said real IP address of said each process module...". Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant believes that this case is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The examiner should call applicant's attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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